



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/901,630	07/11/2001	Amit Jaipuria	024430-00001	7895

4372 7590 08/16/2004

ARENT FOX KINTNER PLOTKIN & KAHN
1050 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W.
SUITE 400
WASHINGTON, DC 20036

EXAMINER

SHERR, CRISTINA O

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3621

DATE MAILED: 08/16/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/901,630

Applicant(s)

JAIPURIA ET AL.

Examiner

Cristina O Sherr

Art Unit

3621

Handwritten signature

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 May 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24, 31-48 and 51-55 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24, 31-48 and 51-55 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is in response to the amendment filed 27 May 2004. Claim 17 has been amended. Claims 1-24, 31-48, and 51-55 are pending in this case.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 9, 14, 31, 36, 41, and 51 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weinreich et al (US 6,175,831B1) in view of Mandyam et al (US 6,236,989B1).

5. Regarding claim 1 –

Weinreich discloses a method of providing a multi-level hierarchical communications network comprising the steps of: accessing a network central database; creating a networking data set by entering information relating to multiple entities; (Col 2 In 10 – col 4 In 37).

6. Weinreich does not disclose, but Mandyam does, assigning specific access rights of varying levels to each entity; storing the information at the database; searching the networking data set to identify entities satisfying a specific criteria; and verifying the access rights assigned to the entities found in the search result (e.g. col 5 In 5-40).

7. Regarding claim 2 –

Weinreich discloses the method of claim 1 wherein the access rights convey or deny access to further database searching (Col 2 ln 36-53).

8. Regarding claim 3 –

Weinreich discloses the method of claim 1 wherein the access rights comprise at least two different security levels (col 2 ln 41-46).

9. Regarding claim 4 –

Weinreich discloses the method of claim 3 wherein the different security levels are associated with unique information relating to each entity (col 2 ln 58-63).

10. Regarding claim 5 –

Weinreich discloses the method of claim 1 further comprising the step of displaying the search result (col 2 ln 58-63).

11. Regarding claim 6 –

Weinreich discloses the method of claim 1 further comprising the step of transmitting information to the entities found in the search result (col 3 ln 38-50).

12. Regarding claim 7 –

Weinreich discloses the method of claim 1 wherein the search result contains information relating to entities assigned a specific level access right (col 3 ln 38-50).

13. Regarding claim 8 –

Weinreich discloses the method of claim 1 wherein the information relating to the multiple entities is at least one of name, address, date of birth, academic degrees,

Art Unit: 3621

family tree, employment history, professional organizations, company name, products, services, brands, expertise, hobbies and sports interests (col 2 ln 58-63).

14. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Weinreich and Mandyam in order to provide a more complete service.

15. Claims 9-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weinreich et al (US 6,175,831B1) in view of Mandyam et al (US 6,236,989B1).

16. Regarding claim 9 –

Weinreich discloses a method of providing a networking database comprising the steps of: connecting to a central database; storing multiple user profiles at the central database; assigning user access rights to each user profile (Col 2 ln 10 – col 4 ln 37).

17. Weinreich does not disclose by Mandyam does, searching network search fields associated with each user profile for specific criteria; receiving information regarding user profiles related to the specific search criteria; and performing a subsequent network search by searching the information received to determine additional user profiles (e.g. col 5 ln 5-40).

18. Regarding claim 10 –

Weinreich discloses the method of claim 9 wherein the access rights comprise at least two different security levels (col 2 ln 41-46).

19. Regarding claim 11 –

Weinreich discloses the method of claim 9 wherein the different security levels are associated with unique information relating to the specific search criteria (col 2 ln 41-46).

20. Regarding claim 12 –

Weinreich discloses the method of claim 9 further comprising the step of displaying the search result from the subsequent network search (col 2 ln 58-63).

21. Regarding claim 13 –

Weinreich discloses the method of claim 9 wherein the network search fields contain information selected from the group consisting of name, address, date of birth, academic degree(s), family tree, employment history, professional organizations, company name, products, services, brands, hobbies and sports interests (col 2 ln 58-63).

22. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Weinreich and Mandyam in order to provide a more complete service.

23. Claims 14-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weinreich et al (US 6,175,831B1) in view of Mandyam et al (US 6,236,989B1).

24. Regarding claim 14 –

Weinreich discloses a method of searching a network database comprising the steps of: (a) storing information relating to a first entity in a first network database; (b) storing information relating to a second entity in a second network database; (c) assigning access rights to the information relating to each entity in the first and second network databases; (f) associating a multibridge linking code with the second entity if the entity has criteria matching the specific data requirement from the second search; (g) retrieving the specific data by using the multibridge linking code; (h) establishing contact with the entity (Col 2 ln 10 – col 4 ln 37).

25. Weinreich does not disclose, but Mandyam does, searching the first network database for specific data relating to the first entity; searching the second network database for the specific data requirement if the search of the first network database does not find criteria matching the specific data requirement (e.g. col 5 ln 5-40).

26. Regarding claim 15 –

Weinreich discloses the method of claim 14 wherein the multibridge linking code grants the privilege to access further information relating to each entity in the second group (col 3 ln 17-31).

27. Regarding claim 16 –

Weinreich discloses the method of claim 14 wherein the multibridge linking codes are time bound codes (col 3 ln 17-31).

28. Regarding claim 17 –

Weinreich discloses the method of claim 14 wherein the multibridge linking codes are at least one of alphanumeric, symbols and icons (col 7 ln 55-65).

29. Regarding claim 18 –

Weinreich discloses the method of claim 14 wherein the multibridge linking codes are randomly assigned (col 7 ln 55-65).

30. Regarding claim 19 –

Weinreich discloses the method of claim 14 wherein the method of establishing contact is by at least one of telephone, e-mail, mail, wireless communication device and the Internet (col 4 ln 25-31).

31. Regarding claim 20 –

Weinreich discloses the method of claim 19 wherein a contact message is auto-forwarded to the entity (col 3 ln 4-16).

32. Regarding claim 21 –

Weinreich discloses the method of claim 14 further comprising the step of searching the second network database for the specific data requirement even if the search of the first network database results in finding criteria matching the specific data requirement (col 7 ln 55-65).

33. Regarding claim 22 –

Weinreich discloses the method of claim 14 wherein the first entity and the second entity each comprise at least one individual (col 2 ln 36-41).

33. Regarding claim 23 –

Weinreich discloses the method of claim 14 wherein the first entity and the second entity each comprise at least one Industry or Company (col 2 ln 36-41).

34. Regarding claim 24 –

Weinreich discloses the method of claim 21 further comprising the step of storing information relating to a variable number of entities in a variable number of network databases and repeating steps (c) - (i) for entities having criteria matching the specific data requirement (col 2 ln 36-41).

35. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Weinreich and Mandyam in order to provide a more complete service.

36. Claims 31-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weinreich et al (US 6,175,831B1) in view of Mandyam et al (US 6,236,989B1).

378. Regarding claim 31 –

Weinreich discloses a network database system comprising: means for storing information relating to a first entity in a first network central database; means for storing information relating to a second entity in a second network central database; means for assigning access rights to the information relating to each entity in the first and second network databases;; means for associating a multibridge linking code with each individual in the second group; and means for retrieving the specific data by using the multibridge linking code (Col 2 ln 10 – col 4 ln 37).

38. Weinreich does not disclose but Mandyam does means for searching the first network database for the specific data relating to the first entity; means for searching the second network database for the specific data requirement if the search of the first network does not find criteria matching the specific data requirement (e.g. col 5 ln 5-40).

39. Regarding claim 32 –

Weinreich discloses the system of claim 31 wherein the multibridge linking code grants the privilege to access further information relating to the second entity (col 3 ln 17-31).

40. Regarding claim 33 –

Weinreich discloses the system of claim 31 wherein the multibridge linking codes are time bound codes (col 3 ln 17-31).

41. Regarding claim 34 –

Weinreich discloses the system of claim 31 wherein the multibridge linking codes are at least one of alphanumeric, symbols and icons (col 7 ln 55-65).

42. Regarding claim 35 –

Art Unit: 3621

Weinreich discloses the method of claim 31 wherein the multibridge linking codes are randomly assigned (col 7 ln 55-65).

43. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Weinreich and Mandyam in order to provide a more complete service.

44. Claims 36-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weinreich et al (US 6,175,831B1) in view of Mandyam et al (US 6,236,989B1).

45. Regarding claim 36 –

Weinreich discloses a system for providing a networking database comprising: means for connecting to a central database; means for storing multiple user profiles at the central database; means for assigning user access rights to each user profile (Col 2 ln 10 – col 4 ln 37).

46. Weinreich does not disclose, but Mandyam does, means for searching network search fields associated with each user profile for specific criteria; means for receiving information regarding user profiles related to the specific search criteria; and means for performing a subsequent network search by searching the information received to determine additional user profiles (e.g. col 5 ln 5-40).

47. Regarding claim 37 –

Weinreich discloses the system of claim 36 wherein the access rights comprise at least two different security levels (col 2 ln 41-46).

48. Regarding claim 38 –

Weinreich discloses the system of claim 36 wherein the different security levels are associated with unique information relating to the specific search criteria (col 2 ln 58-63).

49. Regarding claim 39 –

Weinreich discloses the system of claim 36 further comprising the step of displaying the search result (col 2 ln 58-63).

50. Regarding claim 40 –

Weinreich discloses the system of claim 36 wherein the network search fields contain information selected from the group consisting of name, address, date of birth, academic degrees, family tree, employment history, professional organizations, company name, products, services, brands, hobbies and sports interests (col 2 ln 58-63).

51. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Weinreich and Mandyam in order to provide a more complete service.

52. Claims 41-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weinreich et al (US 6,175,831B1) in view of Mandyam et al (US 6,236,989B1).

53. Regarding claim 41 –

Weinreich discloses a communications network comprising: means for accessing a network central database; means for creating a networking data set by entering information relating to multiple entities; means for assigning specific access rights of varying levels to each entity; means for storing the information at the database (Col 2 ln 10 – col 4 ln 37).

54. Weinreich does not disclose, but Mandyam does, means for searching the networking data set to identify entities satisfying a specific criteria; and means for verifying the access rights assigned to the entities found in the search result (e.g. col 5 In 5-40).

55. Regarding claim 42 –

Weinreich discloses the network of claim 41 wherein the access rights convey or deny access to further database searching (col 2 In 41-46).

56. Regarding claim 43 –

Weinreich discloses the network of claim 41 wherein the access rights comprise at least two different security levels (col 2 In 41-46).

57. Regarding claim 44 –

Weinreich discloses the network of claim 43 wherein the different security levels are associated with unique information relating to each entity (col 2 In 58-63).

58. Regarding claim 45 –

Weinreich discloses the network of claim 41 further comprising the step of displaying the search result (col 2 In 58-63).

59. Regarding claim 46 –

Weinreich discloses the network of claim 41 further comprising the step of transmitting information to the entities found in the search result (col 3 In 38-50).

60. Regarding claim 47 –

Weinreich discloses the network of claim 41 wherein the search result contains information relating to entities assigned a specific level access right (col 3 In 38-50).

61. Regarding claim 48 –

Weinreich discloses the network of claim 41 wherein the information relating to multiple entities is selected from the group consisting of name, address, date of birth, academic degrees, family tree, employment history, professional organizations, company name, products, services, brands, hobbies and sports interests (col 2 ln 58-63).

62. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Weinreich and Mandyam in order to provide a more complete service.

63. Claims 51-55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weinreich et al (US 6,175,831B1) in view of Mandyam et al (US 6,236,989B1).

64. Regarding claim 51 –

Weinreich discloses a method of optimizing networking capability comprising the steps of: providing a networking database comprised of information relating to multiple entities; assigning a multibridge linking code to each entity found during the search that has criteria matching the specific data requirement; creating a hierarchical chain between each entity found during the search; assigning a key to represent all the multibridge linking codes that have been assigned during the search; configuring the key to be passed between each entity in the hierarchical chain; using the key to contact the first entity in the hierarchical chain found during the search; using the key to contact the next entity in the hierarchical chain found during the search; wherein each entity in the hierarchical chain decides whether to forward the key to the subsequent entity in the hierarchical chain (Col 2 ln 10 – col 4 ln 37).

65. Weinreich does not disclose, but Mandyam does, searching the networking database for specific data relating to the entities (e.g. col 5 ln 5-40).

66. Regarding claim 52 –

Weinreich discloses the method of claim 51 wherein each entity in the hierarchical chain conveys or denies access to their information by not using the key to contact a subsequent entity (col 2 ln 49-53).

67. Regarding claim 53 –

Weinreich discloses the method of claim 51 wherein the key is configured to be time bound (col 3 ln 17-31).

68. Regarding claim 54 –

Weinreich discloses the method of claim 51 wherein the key is configured to be at least one of alphanumeric, symbols and icons (col 3 ln 17-31).

69. Regarding claim 55 –

Weinreich discloses the method of claim 51 wherein the key is randomly assigned (col 7 ln 55-65).

70. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Weinreich and Mandyam in order to provide a more complete service.

71. Examiner's note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant.

Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may be applied as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant, in preparing the

Art Unit: 3621

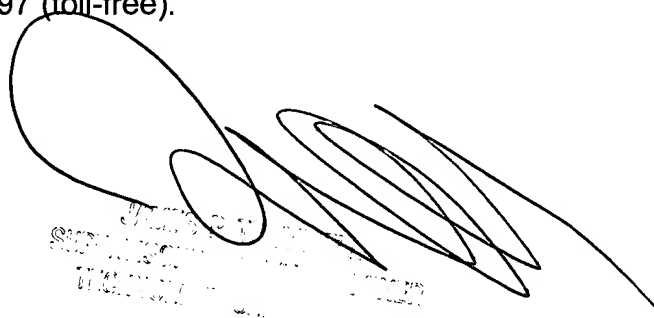
responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

Conclusion

72. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cristina O Sherr whose telephone number is 703-305-0625. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:30 to 5:00.

73. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on 703-305-9768. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

74. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink is written over a circular official stamp. The stamp contains text that is partially obscured by the signature. The signature is a cursive-style name, possibly "Cristina O Sherr".